

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

As required, the Abstract has been shortened. Accordingly, all outstanding formal issues are now believed to have been resolved in the applicant's favor.

The allowance of claims 10-13 and 23-26 is appreciatively noted as is the provisional allowance of dependent claims 2 and 15. Since the limitations of provisionally allowable dependent claims 2 and 15 have now been incorporated into parent independent claims 1 and 14 respectively (dependent claims 2 and 15 having been cancelled), it is now assumed that independent claims 1 and 14 and all claims dependent therefrom are now in fully allowable condition.

The rejection of claims 1, 3-5, 7, 8, 14, 16, and 18-21 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as allegedly anticipated by Arecco et al. '639 is respectfully traversed.

However, due to the above amendment, these grounds of rejection are now mooted and it is not believed necessary to explain the details for such traversal at this time.

The Examiner's attention is also drawn to the attached copy of RFC 3031-Multi-Protocol Label Switching Architecture and a Form PTO-1449 together with the IDS fee appropriate to this stage of prosecution. Attention is also directed to the attached IDS with a copy of Office Actions from related application 09/941,723 as well as an additional Form PTO-1449 and any attached non-US patent references cited therein. Related application 09/941,723 is being handled by

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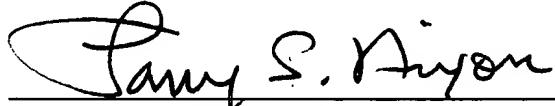
Examiner Emdadi in Art Unit 2667. Also included in this supplemental Information Disclosure Statement are the references of record in possibly related applications 10/036,518 (now US Patent No. 6,917,986). A copy of 06/27/05 Office Action in possibly related application 10/211,065 (being prosecuted through a different law firm) is also attached. Official consideration and return of a fully initialed Form PTO-1449 is respectfully solicited.

Accordingly, this entire application is now believed to be in allowable condition and a formal Notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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